

Message Text

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STATE FOR SECRETARY VANCE, UNDERSECRETARY CHRISTOPHER,
AND AF MOOSE

WHITEHOUSE FOR VICE PRESIDENT AND BRZEZINSKI

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, XA, NI

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH BRIGADIER JOSEPH GARBA: GARBA

PROPOSES AFRICA MINI SUMMIT IN NIGERIA

1. SUMMARY: GARBA PROPOSES INVITING FRONTLINE
PRESIDENTS AND UK PM CALLAGHAN TO MEETING ON
SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES DURING CARTER NIGERIA
VISIT.

2. MET WITH BRIGADIER GARBA AFTER HIS ARRIVAL FOR
UNSC RHODESIA DEBATE. GARBA VERY ANXIOUS AND
CONFUSED OVER US POSITION. QUOTE. WE NEVER TRUSTED
THE BRITISH BUT WE SUPPORTED ANGLO-AMERICAN PLAN
BECAUSE OF FAITH IN US INVOLVEMENT. WE NOW GET
CONFLICTING SIGNALS. CRITICISM AT HOME WAS ALWAYS
DIFFICULT FOR FMG BUT WE STUCK WITH OUR COMMITMENT
BECAUSE OF YOU AND PRESIDENT CARTER. NOW WE DON'T
KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU AND THE BRITISH. IT

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SEEMS YOU ARE GIVING INTO THEM ON INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.
WE ARE EVEN WORRIED ABOUT PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT.
IT WAS OUR HOPE THAT THIS WOULD BE A TRIUMPHANT VISIT
OF THE FIRST AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO VISIT AFRICA BUT
IF THINGS CONTINUE TO DRIFT WE'LL HAVE
PROBLEMS. END OF QUOTE.

3. I EXPLAINED TO BRIGADIER GARBA THE PROBLEMS OF THE US PUBLIC AND PRESS IN COMING TO A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT HAPPENED IN SALISBURY. IT WOULD TAKE TIME TO DEVELOP A CONSENSUS.

4. SEVERAL PROBLEMS NEED TO BE RESOLVED WITH PF. EFFORTS TO MOVE BEYOND MALTA ARE BLOCKED BY THEIR RESISTANCE TO UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE AND QUESTION OF POLICE. WE CANNOT RESUME EFFECTIVE NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT CONCERTED PRESSURE FROM FRONTLINE AND NIGERIA.

5. GARBA RESPONDED THAT PERHAPS THEY COULD INVITE THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS TO NIGERIA AT THE TIME OF CARTER VISIT FOR A MINI AFRICAN SUMMIT.

6. COMMENT: NIGERIA VISIT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR US POLICY, BUT NIGERIAN STUDENTS ARE VERY EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED IN RHODESIA AND SOUTH AFRICA QUESTIONS. KISSINGER VISIT WAS CANCELLED ALTHOUGH THE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA WAS ANXIOUS FOR IMPROVED US RELATIONS. ANY SEEMING EQUIVOCATION IN POLICY CAN CAUSE TROUBLES. AFRICA MINI SUMMIT HOWEVER APPEALS TO NIGERIAN PRIDE AS AFRICAN LEADER AND GIVES THE FMG THE SUPPORT OF THE AFRICAN SAINTS - NYERERE-KAUNDA AND MILITANTS MACHIEL-NETO. CALLAGHAN'S PREFERENCE COULD BE A BOOST FOR LAGGING UK FMG RELATIONS AND PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY
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FOR A COORDINATED SOUTHERN AFRICA POLICY.

7. MEETING COULD BE BRIEF SO AS NOT TO DETRACT FROM REMAINING NIGERIA VISIT OR ALLOW TIME TO GET TOO DEEPLY IN OTHER COMPLICATED QUESTIONS. YOUNG

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